review sanctions/clearance granted to projects of Krishna basin in Karnataka and also restraining the latter from proceeding with their construction. However, the Union Government has not given investment clearance to any such project.

(c) and (d) State Governments of Krishna Basin States can collect the copy of reports of their interest from CWC. The CWC is also maintaining a Library of project reports of Krishna Basin States and any Basin State can make use of this library.

Performance of Academies

841. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lalit Kala Academy, Sangeet Natak Academy, and Sahitya Academy have failed in achieving their specified objectives;

(b) if so, whether there is maladministration, financial irregularities etc. in these Academies;

(c) if so, whether the Government have evaluated the working of these Academies; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to restructure them suitably?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The Sahitya Akademi and the Sangeet Natak Akademi are pursuing their specified objectives. However, in case of Lalit Kala Akademi, for the last few years, the mismanagement led them away from their objectives. Some financial irregularities were also reported.

(c) The Government evaluates the functioning of the Akademies which are autonomous organisations fully funded by the Government, through their annual reports etc. The C&AG audits the accounts as well.

(d) The High Powered Committee set up by the Government of India to review the function of the Akademies as well as National School of Drama had submitted a detailed report which contained suggestions for restructuring them. Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi agreed to these suggestions. The Lalit Kala Akademi was not willing to accept these changes. Now, the Government has taken over the management of the Akademi for a limited period and is in the process of restructuring the Lalit Kala Akademi in tune with the recommendations of the High Powered Committee headed by Shri P.N. Haksar.

Setting up of Technical Training Institutions

842. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Meghalaya, no steps have been taken to set up technical training institutions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have ever taken up the issue with the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) Shillong Polytechnic, Shillong and Tura Polytechnic, Tura West Garo Hills are the two diploma level technical training institutions approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in Meghalaya. The Council had invited fresh proposals from the States/Union Territories for setting up of technical institutions during the year 1997-98 for its consideration. No proposal has been received by the AICTE from the Government of Meghalaya.

Runway Work at Calicut Airport

843. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the runway work at Calicut Airport has reached as on June 30, 1997;

(b) the total amount spent for the work;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether any other developmental work is underway at Calicut Airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The runway work at Calicut airport has achieved 33% progress upto 30th June, 1997.

(b) The amount spent upto 30th June, 1997 was Rs. 34.61 crores including cost of acquisition of land.

(c) The work is likely to be completed by January, 2000.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In addition to extension of runway, the apron is being expanded. Necessary civil works have been completed and electrical works are in progress.

Brahmaputra Board

844. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the North-Eastern States covered under Brahmaputra Board for comprehensive water management and flood control measures; and

(b) the plan of the Government for water management and flood control measures in the States not covered by Brahmaputra Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Out of the seven North-Eastern States, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya are completely covered under comprehensive water management and flood control measures of Brahmaputra Board. Other States Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland are partly covered under the jurisdiction of the Brahmaputra Board. The Brahmaputra Board was established by the Union Government to provide for the planning and integrated implementation of measures for the control of flood and bank erosion in both the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys.

(b) The measures for water management and flood control in the States not covered by Brahmaputra Board are planned, investigated and implemented by the concerned State Governments as these are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments.

Expenditure Tax on Hotel Tariff

845. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to exempt the foreign tourists from expenditure tax on hotel tariff;

(b) if so, whether such tax is proposed to be levied on other items of expenditure like food and all other services; and

(c) if so, the reasons for taking such decision and the impact on common man as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The payment of hotel bills by foreign tourists is taxable under the Expenditure-tax Act, 1987. There is no proposal to exempt the foreign tourists to pay tax under the aforementioned Act.

(b) Tax is levied on any expenditure incurred in a hotel where the room tariff is Rs 1200/- or more per day per person.

(c) The Expenditure-tax was introduced mainly for those who could afford to patronize high class hotels.

Schemes for Minority Students

846. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes for the welfare of the students of minority community; and

(b) the number of students benefitted during the last two years and so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The following schemes are in operation for the welfare of the students of minority community.

(i) Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities;

(ii) Scheme of Financial Assistance for Modernisation of Madarsa Education.

(iii) Scheme of Community Polytechnics;

(iv) Scheme for Coaching Classes for Competitive Examinations for Weaker Sections amongst Educationally Backward Minority Community; and

(v) Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching Classes run by the Ministry of Welfare.

Details are given in the Statement-I attached.

Besides the above schemes which are exclusively operating for welfare of Minorities, the following schemes are also contributing to educational development of Minorities:

(i) Non-formal Education Centres;

(ii) Scheme of Eradication of illiteracy, TLC;

(iii) Scheme of Mid-day Meals;

(iv) District Primary Education Programme (DPEP); and

(v) Scheme of Operation Black Board.